



3. What are the differences between phonics and phonetics?

Both phonics and phonetics deal with how words are pronounced. However, they essentially differ in six areas.

Check what you know about the differences between phonics and phonetics by completing the table below using the twelve expressions that follow. Make sure that each row focuses on one area of difference.

Phonics (br u sh)	Phonetics (/br ʌ ʃt/)

- a. involves cutting up words into pronunciation units
- b. is a way of writing down pronunciation
- c. enables accurate pronunciation of words
- d. enables students to make a sensible guess of the pronunciations of different words using the knowledge about basic letter-sound relationships without having to make reference to a dictionary
- e. is used by students and teachers as a reference for pronunciation
- f. is concerned with the studying of the basic letter-sound relationships
- g. helps students predict intelligently the pronunciations of unfamiliar words although it does not work all the time
- h. is concerned with comparing the 44 different sound units (i.e. phonemes) that make a difference to meanings of words and the making of these sounds vocally
- i. is a strategy used by students in their reading and spelling
- j. involves using phonetic symbols to represent the pronunciation units
- k. is a way of teaching students how to pronounce words based on spellings
- l. involves making reference to a dictionary to get the pronunciations of different words

The following table summarises the differences between phonics and phonetics:

Phonics (br u sh)	Phonetics (/br ʌ ʃ/)
f. is concerned with the studying of the basic letter-sound relationships	h. is concerned with comparing the 44 different sound units (i.e. phonemes) that make a difference to meanings of words and the making of these sounds vocally
k. is a way of teaching students how to pronounce words based on spellings	b. is a way of writing down pronunciation
a. involves cutting up words into pronunciation units	j. involves using phonetic symbols to represent the pronunciation units
i. is a strategy used by students in their reading and spelling	e. is used by students and teachers as a reference for pronunciation
g. helps students predict intelligently the pronunciations of unfamiliar words although it does not work all the time	c. enables accurate pronunciation of words
d. enables students to make a sensible guess of the pronunciations of different words using the knowledge about basic letter-sound relationships without having to make reference to a dictionary	l. involves making reference to a dictionary to get the pronunciations of different words